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THE FIRST PAN-AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS, HELD IN SANTIAGO, CHILE, DECEMBER 25, 1908-JANUARY 6, 1909

THE first Latin-American Scientific Congress, which was convened in Buenos Aires in 1898, was projected by the Scientific Society of that city, and successfully carried out. It was attended by representatives of twelve Latin-American republics, and yielded results of such importance that a second congress was convened at Montevideo in 1901; and this was followed by a third at Rio Janeiro in 1905. Arrangements were made for a fourth meeting at Santiago, Chile, in 1908, and the Chilean organization committee,¹ feeling that the activities of the congress, which had been limited to the discussion of Latin-American problems and interests chiefly, should be extended to a fully Pan-American scope, decided that the Santiago meeting should be known as "The First Pan-American Scientific Congress."

The organization committee, through the medium of the Chilean government, extended to the government of the United States an invitation to participate. Secretary Root brought the matter to the attention of President Roosevelt,² and the

¹ The organization committee was constituted as follows: *Honorary President*, Marcial Martinez; *President*, Valentin Letelier; *Vice-president*, Manuel E. Ballesteros; *General Secretary*, Eduardo Poirier; *Assistant Secretary*, Augusto Vicuna S.; *Treasurer*, Octavio Maira; *Alejandro Alvarez*, Jose Ramon Gutierrez, Salvador Izquierdo S., Alejandro del Rio, Miguel Varas, Luis Espejo Varas, Anselmo Hevia Riquelme, Vicente Izquierdo, Domingo V. Santa Maria.

² *The President:* The government of Chile has invited the government of the United States to